



Copyright Act Compliance

Students are expected to comply with the provisions of the Copyright Act of 1976 pertaining to photocopying of printed materials, copying of computer software, and recording.

Texas County Technical College provides its students and staff with computers and a network with internet access in order to do research and complete administrative tasks. All users of the network are expected to comply with the college's policy on the use of this network access. Texas County Technical College had developed this policy to eliminate the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials on this network through the use of Peer-to-Peer (P2P) file sharing.

Texas County Technical College has taken several steps to combat the distribution of unauthorized copyrighted material. Currently, only IT administrators have access to download software onto computers used by both students and staff. This is a very strong limitation of the ability of the College Network to have software that uses P2P formats for the transfer of data.

Consequences of Illegal P2P File Sharing

Should a student be caught using P2P file sharing to distribute unauthorized copyrighted material the student may be subject to computer restriction, suspension or even termination depending on the severity of the situation. Employees will be handled on an individual basis by the President and could be subject to termination.

Legal Alternatives

There are more than 13 million legal tracks online today. The following link includes a list of services licensed by the major record companies. Click through to learn where to access legal music online and have the best music experience possible: http://www.riaa.com/toolsforparents.php?content_selector=legal-music-services

Summary of Civil and Criminal Penalties for Violation of Federal Copyright Laws

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute copyrighted work. In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or "statutory" damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For "willful" infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorney fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505.

Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense.

For more information, please see the website of the U.S. Copyright Office at www.copyright.gov, especially their FAQ's at www.copyright.gov/help/faq.